REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate the disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-428917 and claim the priority of the prior application by reference. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

In view of the above amendments and Applicants' comments stated herein, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher

Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez

Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP 3110 Fairview Park Drive Suite 1400 Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703) 641-4200

January 29, 2004